

I vehemently oppose the NAB's petition (04-160) on many fronts, but will not waste my time, and yours, by listing them all, when a couple should suffice.

1 - The local stations do not offer what XM is offering. XM offers continuous, timely and very complete coverage, whereas the locals offer spotty coverage. By spotty coverage, I refer to the fact that they rarely ever bother mentioning traffic delays in the western half of the Phoenix Metro area, concentrating on the east side, and they offer their updates at 15-20 minute intervals, rather than continuously like XM does.

2 - This smacks of the same mentality that many years ago caused me not to be able to receive NBC, CBS and ABC from other areas on my satellite dish because the local stations claimed I could receive their signals via a rooftop antenna. For nearly a year I made phone calls and wrote letters to the local stations, the satellite provider, and the federal government, explaining that I could not receive their signals where I lived at the time because my house was behind a mountain. If I am willing to pay to receive "free" programming, why should I be denied that privilege? The same applies here, to a degree. If we're willing to pay to get better coverage and better information, why should we be denied?

All my life I've been an early adopter of new technologies, and time and again, I've seen this same thing played out. The radio stations swore that television was going to destroy them. It didn't. The recording industry swore that home taping was going to destroy them. It didn't. Years later, the AM radio stations swore that FM was going to destroy them. It didn't. Years later, television stations swore that pay TV was going to destroy them. It didn't. The movie studios and television stations swore that video tape was going to destroy them. It didn't. The recording industry swore that recordable CD's were going to destroy them. They didn't. The recording and motion picture industries swore the Internet was going to destroy them. It didn't. The motion picture industry swore that recordable DVD's was going to destroy them. It hasn't. And now, the local stations are swearing again that new technology is going to destroy them. It won't.

And, if it does, they've got no one to blame but themselves. This nation is based on the free enterprise principle of supply and demand. If there wasn't a demand for a better service, XM wouldn't be delivering it. If there wasn't a demand for a better service, people wouldn't be paying XM to receive it. The nation is also ran on the free enterprise principle of competition. The locals fear the competition, and rather than becoming competitive, they beg the government to protect their over exposed tushes while they confidently stick them in the air to facilitate their continued attempts at burying their heads in the sand.

Tell them to grow up, fix their business and programming models, and leave the government to more important matters, like fixating on blue dresses, determining the mating habits of the fruit fly, going on 9/11 witch hunts, putting catalytic converters on motorcycles, paying for someone to stick our flag in a toilet and calling it art, or some equally pressing matter.